(c) the measures proposed to create more posts of judges and fill them for quicker settlement of pending cases in various courts?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) As per the Eleventh Law Commission's 120th Report on "Manpower Planning in Judiciary: A Blue Print"—July, 1987, the strength of judicial officers in India was far less as compared to strength of judges in certain other countries. At present, there are 13.08 judges per million population in the country.

(c) The Judge strength in the High Courts is reviewed once in three years. The State Governments have been periodically requested to fill up vacant posts in Subordinate Judiciary. Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs has also *vide* his d.o. letter dated 4.4.2001 requested the State Government to accord the utmost priority to filling up of vacant posts of Judges and Magistrates.

In addition to above, the Eleventh Finance Commission has recommended the establishment of 1,734 additional courts known as Fast Track Courts for the purpose of speedy trial of sessions and other cases. As on 28th February, 2002, 1018 Fast Track Courts had already been set up throughout the country.

Reward to the judges for expeditious disposal of cases

1577. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN'

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to reward the judges who will dispose of the pending cases expeditiously;

(b) if so, the details of guidelines issued in this regard and when were these issued;

(c) whether any target has been planned to dispose of the cases

for seven years or more in High Courts/Supreme Court and Subordinate Courts in a time-bound manner;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the new strategy likely to be envisaged to clear the pending cases in various courts?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) to (e) Hon'ble Chief Justice of India has addressed a letter dated the 22nd April, 2002 to the Chief Justices of all High Courts to examine the matter and consider the desirability of issuing necessary instructions to the Registry of the High Court as well as to the Courts subordinate to the High Court to identify and dispose of the matter which were more than 7 years old as on 31st December, 1998. Further the Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs has by his letter dated the 4th Apirl, 2001 requested Chief Ministers of all States and Chief Justices of all High Courts to fill up the existing vacancies in subordinate judiciary as one of the main reasons for delay in the disposal of cases in courts is the large number of vacant posts of judicial officers in the District/Subordinate Courts.

Moreover, under article 235 of the Constitution of India, the administrative control over the members of subordinate judiciary vests with the concerned High Court. Further, in exercise of powers conferred under proviso to article 309 read with articles 233 and 234 of the Constitution, the concerned State Government frames rules and regulations in consultation with the High Court exercising jurisdiction in relation to each State. The members of the State Judicial Service are governed by these rules and regulations. The Delhi High Court has initiated "Unit Scheme" under which judicial officers will be assessed by according graded priority for disposal of old cases according to the year of pendency.

Department-related Parliament Standing Committee on Home Affairs, has since given their Report on judicial reforms on 31st December, 2001. In their report, they have suggested various measures for speedy disposal of old pending cases. Their recommendations have been considered and the matter has been taken up with the State Governments/High Courts.